

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 NIC-01 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 AGR-20 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /220 W

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P R 201734Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8277

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TO, KS, KN

SUBJ: TOGO-PRESSE VERSION OF KOREAN HISTORY

REF: (A) LOME 2137; (B) LOME 2156

1. TOGO-PRESSE DIRECTOR GENERAL KWA OVI BENYI JOHNSON IN SEPTEMBER 18 T-P PRESENTS GOT APOLOGIA FOR BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROK (REPORTED REFTEL A). UNSIGNED ANNEX TO JOHNSON ARTICLE, WHICH MAY BE HIS WORK, PURPORTS TO GIVE HISTORY OF KOREAN PROBLEM TO JUSTIFY RPT CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S "RECOMMENDATION" TO GOT. EMBASSY TRANSLATION THIS AMALGAM OF HALF-TRUTHS, UNTRUTHS, AND SOME APPARENTLY FACTUALLY CORRECT MATERIAL FOLLOWS, AS PER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFTEL (B); UNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED.

2. "AFTER JAPANESE SURRENDER IN 1945 THANKS TO VICTORIOUS ANTI-JAPANESE STRUGGLE OF KOREAN PEOPLE UNDER DIRECTION MARSHAL KIM IL SUNG AND ACTION OF AMERICAN AND SOVIET ALLIES, KOREA DIVIDED IN TWO PARTS BECAUSE OF PRESENCE OF THESE TWO POWERS. RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO PARTS, ALWAYS BAD, LED TO WAR JUNE 25, 1950.

"ONLY THREE DAYS AFTER WAR WAS DECLARED BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA, FIVE DPRK DIVISION RESPONDED VIGOROUSLY BY CROSSING 38TH PARALLEL AND CAPTURED SEOUL.

"SAME DAY, UN SECURITY COUNCIL CALLED UPON THEM IN VAIN TO RETURN TO 38TH PARALLEL, THEN, ON 27TH (SIC) ASKED UN ASSISTANCE IN FAVOR SOUTH KOREA. RESPONDING IMMEDIATELY TO THIS CALL, PRES TRUMAN ORDERED, ON JUNE 27, US AIR AND NAVAL FORCES TO SUPPORT SOUTH KOREANS, PREVENT AGGRESSION AGAINST FORMOSA, AND ACCELERATE MILITARY AID TO FORCES OF FRENCH UNION FIGHTING IN INDO-CHINA. JUNE 30 HE DECIDED TO PUT AMERICAN DIVISIONS STATIONED JAPAN INTO ACTION IN KOREA. BUT BOWLING OVER SOUTHERN FORCES, NORTH KOREANS HAD PROGRESSED 200 KM SOUTH, OCCUPIED MOKPO AND SOUTH-WEST TIP OF PENINSULA WHILE MACARTHUR'S AMERICANS LANDED AT PUSAN.

" LATTER MANAGED, WITH DIFFICULTY, TO HOLD OUT DEFENSIVELY, AND ONLY AFTER SEPTEMBER LANDING AT INCHON WERE AMERICANS, HAVING JOINED UP WITH PUSAN BEACH HEAD, ABLE SHIFT TO OFFENSIVE. UN TROOPS, LED BY MACARTHUR, WERE CROSSING 38TH PARALLEL OCTOBER, AND APPROACHING CHINESE FRONTIER WHEN NOVEMBER 27 INTERVENTION OF MAO-TSE TUNG'S CHINESE VOLUNTEERS PUT EVERYTHING IN QUESTION AGAIN. DESPITE MEDIEATEION EFFORTS, CHINA WAS CONDEMNED AS AGRESSOR BY UNGA (FEB 1, 1951). STRANGE CONDEMNATION FOR COUNTRY WHICH ONLY DID IT INTERNATIONALIST DUTY AND FELT MENACED ON FRONTIERS*

"ARRIVAL UNDER UN FLAG OF FRENCH, BELGIAN, DUTCH AND TURKISH DETATCHMENTS EMPHASIZED INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER OF ACTION.

"MILITARILY, CHINESE REACTION DEMONSTRATED BY POWERFUL OFFENSIVE (NOV 27, 1950) WHICH RETOOK SEOUL, REACHED LINE ABOUT 100 KM SOUTH OF 38TH PAR. BY MID-JANUARY 1951. UN FORCES, FIRST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SURPRISED AND IN FULL RETREAT, THEN RECEIVED AMERICAN REINFORCEMENTS, REOCCUPIED SEOUL AND BY SPRING REACHED 38TH PARALLEL. FRONT STABILIZED; WAS IT GOING CONSTITUTE NEW POINT OF DEPARTURE TOWARD NORTH-EAST CHINA FOR UN TROOPS, THUS RISKING GENERAL WAR WITH CHINA? US, VERY COMMITTED IN EUROPE (NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY), OBLIGED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT RELUCTANCE OF ALLIES, ABOVE ALL BRITISH, AND LACK UNANIMITY PREVAILING IN UN ON KOREAN ISSUE, DID NOT ACCEPT THIS RISK. APRIL 1951, MACARTHUR, AVOWED SUPPORTER

OF OFFENSIVE, RELIEVED OF COMMAND AND REPLACED BY RIDGWAY, THEN IN 1952 BY CLARK. FROM THEN MILITARY OPERATIONS DECLINED TO WAR OF POSITION. AFTER NUMEROUS DIPLOMATIC SOUNDINGS, LABORIOUS ARMISTICE PARLEYS BEGAN IN KAESONG JULY 1951; BROKEN OFF END AUGUST, RESUMED OCTOBER AT PANMUNJON, BUT ONLY ENDED IN AGREEMENT JULY 27, 1953, AFTER INTERMINABLE NEGOTIATIONS. EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS ENTRUSTED TO NEUTRAL COMMISSION. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS US AND USSR GRANTED RESPECTIVELY THEIR GUARANTY TO ROK AND DPRK (SEPT 1953) AND CHINESE TROOPS WITHDREW IN 1958.

"SINCE THAT DATE NO FOREIGN SOLDIER HAS BEEN ON SOIL OF DPRK WHILE FOREIGN TROOPS HAVE REMAINED IN SOUTH UNTIL THIS DAY, VERITABLE OBSTACLE TO PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION.

"ONE MUST PAY HOMAGE TO KOREAN PEOPLE WHO UNDER DIRECTION OF GREAT STRATEGIST KIM IL SUNG HAVE VICTORIOUSLY CONDUCTED ONE OF MOST FEROCIOUS WARS IN HISTORY. WHOLE CITY PYONGYANG DESTROYED EXCEPT 3 BUILDINGS. BUT KOREANS RESISTED HEROICALLY THANKS TO KIM IL SUNG."

3. IN TELIVISED ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION LAST NIGHT, KWAОВI JOHNSON REPEATED CHARGE THAT, AFTER SOVIET TROOPS HAD WITHDRAWN FROM NORTH KOREAN, AMERICAN TROOPS HAD REMAINED IN SOUTH. AS IN TOGO-PRESSE ARTICLE, NO FACTUAL EXPLANATION GIVEN.

4. DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS REQUESTED RE DESIRABILITY OF EMBASSY DEMARCHE TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT. TOGO-PRESSE AND TELEVISION ARE GOVERNMENT-OWNED. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES GOT ACTION IN BREAKING WITH ROK ORREVOCABLE. WE SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN THOUGH GOT HAS ADOPTED NORTH KOREAN MYTHOLOGY AS ITS OWN, IT MIGHT BE DISCOURAGED BY OUR DEMARCHE FROM FURTHER PROPAGATING DISTORTED VEERSIIION OF HISTORY. PLEASE ADVISE.

RAWLS

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